

THE MAINE'S MISSION.

How the Dispatch of the Battleship to Havana is Interpreted.

Simply a Resumption of Friendly Naval Relations with Spain—The Spanish Ministry Fully Informed of Our Intentions.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—Within 24 hours, for the first time since the insurrection broke out in Cuba three years ago, the United States government will be represented in the harbor of Havana by a war ship. The decision to send the United States steamer Maine was finally reached at a special meeting at the White House yesterday morning, between the president, Secretary Long, Assistant Secretary Day, Attorney-General McKenna and Gen. Miles, and it is a striking fact that, with the exception of the secretary of the navy and the attorney general, not a member of the cabinet knew of the president's intention to take this radical action. It is not denied, however, that some such move has been long in contemplation, as is evidenced in the following statement of Assistant Secretary Day, made yesterday afternoon:

"The sending of the Maine to Havana means simply the resumption of friendly naval relations with Spain. It is customary for naval vessels of friendly nations to pass in and out of harbors of other countries with which they are at peace, and British and German war ships have recently visited Havana. This is no new move. The president has intended to do it for some time, but heretofore something has happened to postpone it. The orders to the Maine mean nothing more than I have said, and there is nothing alarming or unfriendly in them. The Spanish minister here is fully informed of what is going on, and so far as I know, has not made the slightest objection to it."

Further, Assistant Secretary Day says that Consul-General Lee has not sent for a war ship.

This statement shows that the movement was made deliberately, and that it could not have been taken if there were serious apprehensions of its results in Havana.

The general belief here, however, is that in Madrid, rather than in a Cuban town, is to be looked for, if there should be any misapprehension of the purpose of our government in sending the Maine to Havana. The temper of the newspapers in the Spanish capital has been threatening for some time, and it may require the strong hand of the news censor to repress utterances that would lead to rioting.

Admiral Seward's orders were not made public in their text at the navy department, but it was stated that the substance of them was contained in the statement made by Secretary Long. The orders were not sent directly to the Maine, for the reason that she is now attached to the squadron, and the naval regulations require all such orders to go through the superior officer. There is some question whether the telegram reached the admiral before he sailed with his squadron from Key West for Tortugas harbor. The belief is that it did not, but this will make little difference in the programme, inasmuch as the telegram doubtless will be sent to the admiral by one of the torpedo boats, or by some other means of conveyance. The details of the Maine's movement are believed to be left for the arrangement of Admiral Seward, but it is thought that the ship, which put to sea with the squadron, will return to Key West before going to Havana.

The German ships, to which Assistant Secretary Day referred in his statement, are the Charlotte and the Geyer, both training ships, and not of formidable type, though one sufficed to settle hastily the recent Haytian difficulty. Their touching at Havana is not believed to be significant, as their cruise was arranged in all details last September, and the same ships are due at Charleston, S. C., early in February next.

The commander of the Maine, Capt. Sigsbee, is a favorite in the navy department. For four years he was chief of the hydrographic office, and by his energy brought the office to a high standard. He was lucky to get so important a ship as the Maine, considering his actual rank, which is that of a commander, but immediately he justified the department's judgment in the selection by running his ship straight into a dock in New York harbor to avoid running down a packed excursion boat. This was a display of quick judgment, nerve and pluck that pleased the department so highly that the captain was sent a complimentary letter.

JACKSONVILLE EXCITED.

Reported Resignation of Consul-General Lee Causes Excitement.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Jan. 25.—A dispatch to the Times-Union and Citizen from Key West says:

"Great excitement prevails here over a report that Consul-General Lee has resigned. The Maine and the rest of the fleet left here at nine o'clock yesterday morning for Tortugas. The torpedo boat Dupont sailed at 5:01 yesterday afternoon with important dispatches for the fleet. It is reported that the Maine has been ordered to Havana."

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL ARRESTED

Charged with Assaulting a Scholar with a Poker.

MAON, Mo., Jan. 25.—Austin E. Park, principal of the New Cambria (Macon county) public schools, was arrested yesterday, charged with assaulting Fred White, a ten-year-old boy. The boys were snowed out at noon, and Park ordered them to desist. The boys did not obey promptly, and Park got a poker and it is claimed, struck White over the head with it. At seven o'clock last night White had not recovered consciousness.

FOOD FOR FLAMES.

A Million-Dollar Fire in East St. Louis, Ill.—Three Million Bushels of Grain, with Elevator, Eighty-Five Loaded Cars, the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Freight House, Transfer Stables and Numerous Cottages Burned.

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill., Jan. 26.—The Union elevator, owned by the Union Elevator Co. of St. Louis, was totally burned late last night with the contents, about 3,000,000 bushels of grain. A greater part of this was corn. The immense Chicago, Burlington & Quincy freight house adjoining the elevator. Numerous cottages to the east of the elevator were also burned. The total loss, it is estimated, will not be far from \$1,000,000.

Three engines were sent over from St. Louis and helped to keep the flames from spreading further.

In the railroad yards between the elevator and freight house were several hundred cars loaded with grain. A greater part of these were pulled out by switch engines and saved, but it is thought that at least 85 cars, each containing 500 bushels of corn, were burned.

Across the street, east from the elevator, were a number of shanties. About 12 of these went up in flames, as well as the big stables of the St. Louis Transfer Co. Fifteen out of 45 wagons, and all of the 230 horses with their harness were saved.

At midnight the fire was confined within the limits named, but it will be many hours before it burns itself out. The heaviest losers are thought to be the E. B. White Grain Co., Will Harstick Grain Commission Co. and the United Elevator Co., which owned the bulk of the grain in the elevator.

The E. B. White Co. had just completed the loading of 85 cars of corn for shipment to Newport News for export, and it is thought some of them are among the cars destroyed. It is impossible at this time to get a detailed estimate of the losses or accurately estimate the aggregate, but it is thought that they will foot up at least \$1,000,000. What the insurance amounts to cannot be learned now.

BROWN CONFESSES.

The Former San Francisco Preacher Gives Up the Fight.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 26.—After two years of denials and protestations that he was innocent of the sensational charges brought against him while pastor of the First Congregational church in this city, Rev. Charles O. Brown has appeared before the lay conference and withdrawn his former answer to its citation and confessed that he had not told the truth and that some of the charges against him were true. After the confession was read there was a further hearing and a long discussion, at the end of which Dr. Brown was unanimously dropped from the lay conference, but the members extended to the pastor their personal sympathy. In his confession he says he has asked that his name be dropped from the roll of the Chicago association.

DEMANDED THE CASH.

A Bold Robber Invades the Union Trust Co. Bank at St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 26.—Shortly before noon a man, either a robber or a lunatic, walked into Judge Madill's private office in the Union Trust Co., and demanded \$5,000 in cash, threatening to kill the judge unless it was at once forthcoming.

Judge Madill temporized with the fellow, whom he sized up as a lunatic, and, pretending to acquiesce in his demand, told him to wait a moment and he would get it for him. Stepping out of the office he called to Mr. Festus J. Wade to call the police, and headquarters was at once called upon for two detectives who arrived soon after and placed the fellow under arrest, but not before he had tried to pull a gun on them.

THE APPLE SHORTAGE.

Evidence Accumulating of Last Year's Light Apple Crop.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 26.—Evidence of the fact that there was an immense shortage in the last apple crop is beginning to accumulate. Europe is watching this country to see what is going to happen, but from the foreigners' point of view there is little to worry over, in spite of the apparent shortage.

For the week ending January 15 there were exported from this country 32,895 barrels of apples, as compared with 34,329 for the corresponding week of last year. The total exports to date this year amount to 682,763 barrels, as compared with 2,215,163 to the same date last year, or over 1,500,000 barrels less than last year.

EN ROUTE TO PRISON.

Henry Starr, the Famous Southwestern Bandit, Settled at Last.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 25.—Henry Starr, the famous southwestern bandit, passed through St. Louis to the Columbus (O.) penitentiary, where he will, in all probability, spend the remainder of his life. He was in charge of three guards. Starr bears the remarkable distinction of being the only man who was ever convicted four times on the charge of murder and had the supreme court of the United States overrule the findings and remand him for trial again.

BACK FROM THE GOLD FIELDS.

News of New Strikes Having Been Made on Hunter Creek.

VICTORIA, B. C., Jan. 26.—The steamer City of Topeka arrived from Alaska, Monday, bringing about 40 passengers, two of whom, F. E. C. Berry, of Seattle, and Geo. Barrack, of Colorado Springs, having just returned from the Canadian gold fields. They left on December 13, bringing news of new strikes having been made on Hunter creek, the last at the beginning of December, when pans ranging all the way from \$2.50 to \$7.50 were taken out.

ANCHORED AT HAVANA.

Arrival of the United States Battleship Maine—Saluted by Forts and War Vessels—All the Ceremonies Called for by Naval Etiquette Observed—Visits "On Service" Made and Returned—Lee and Sigsbee in Consultation.

HAVANA, Jan. 26.—The United States battleship Maine, commanded by Capt. Charles D. Sigsbee, which left Key West, Fla., on January 24, arrived here at 11 a. m. yesterday, and was saluted by the forts and war vessels.

A naval lieutenant of the Spanish cruiser Alfonso XII., the Spanish flagship, visited the Maine early in the afternoon as also the officers of the German cruiser Gneissennau, the school ship. Both visits were returned by Capt. Sigsbee, who, at six o'clock, called upon Rear-Admiral Vincente Manterola at the admiralty office and upon Vice-Admiral Pastor, after which he had a prolonged conference with Consul-General Lee. The consul general will return Capt. Sigsbee's visit this afternoon. He is arranging for a visit by Capt. Sigsbee to Acting Capt. Gen. Parrado.

The officers and sailors of the Maine will not go ashore at present, in order to avoid possible friction.

Capt. Sigsbee has expressed himself as much gratified by the reception tendered him and the courtesy and cordiality shown.

The American newspaper correspondents will give a banquet to Capt. Sigsbee, Consul-General Lee and a number of Spanish officers.

It is reported at the palace that Gen. Maximo Gomez has fallen back across the Moron Jucaro into the Camaguey district.

The Situation at Havana.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—The second telegram from Consul-General Lee, received at the state department yesterday, came at two o'clock and was carried by Assistant Secretary Day over to the White House for the information of the president. In this telegram Gen. Lee said that the Maine had been received with every courtesy. The commanders of the German and Spanish ships-of-war in the harbor had called upon the commander of the Maine, who had returned their calls, the forts had fired salutes, and all the ceremonies called for by naval etiquette had been observed.

In addition, the consul-general stated that everything was tranquil in Havana. The department officials have heard nothing officially of any trouble or misunderstanding between Consul-General Lee and Secretary-General Gonsolo, and attach little importance to the rumors to that effect. It is suggested that the basis may be the report current several days ago that Dr. Gonsolo had expressed displeasure because Gen. Lee had declined to state officially that he had not predicted failure for the autonomy plan.

It is said at the navy department that as matters stand there is no call for further instructions at present to Capt. Sigsbee, who is permitted to use his own discretion in dealing with events of the day, although he has been enjoined to consult freely with Consul-General Lee, and was also minutely instructed before he arrived at Havana as to the wishes of the secretary of the navy.

SPANISH FICTIONS.

Unopposed Victories for the Royal Troops—Feasting and Starvation.

HAVANA, Jan. 26.—The Spanish forces, it is announced, have destroyed the camp of the insurgent leader, Juan Delgado, near Managua. The camp of the insurgent leader Romero is also reported to have been destroyed. In Spanish circles it is said that a government force, in reconnoitering near Aguacate and Tapaste, this province, has been engaged with the insurgent general, Aranguen, who was in command of 130 cavaliers. The Spaniards are said to have killed many of the insurgents and to have captured the correspondence of Aranguen. The Spanish forces under the command of Col. Rubin, it is announced at Spanish headquarters, recently landed on the coast near Trinidad to reconnoiter the River Monose and dislodge an insurgent force from an entrenched position. The Spaniards are announced to have had a major, a captain, a doctor and two soldiers wounded.

The chamber of commerce met again to consider the proposed commercial treaty with the United States.

Lu Lucha criticizes the splendid banquet in honor of the secretary of commerce and industry, and a banquet given in honor of Manuel Santander, pointing out that in the meantime the "wretched concentration" were witnessing those "grand banquets" from the streets.

The origin of the fire is supposed to have been in the engine room. Mrs. Stark Oliver, wife of Dr. Stark Oliver, who lived on the second floor, says she heard an explosion shortly before the flames appeared. The boiler may have exploded and caused the fire to start. There is another theory, and that is the chemicals in the basement stored there for the photographic supply of John W. Graham & Co. exploded.

The Great Eastern block was built in 1890, at a cost of \$250,000, and was owned by Louis Levinsoy, of San Francisco, who carried but \$50,000 worth of insurance. On the ground floor of the structure was the establishment of the John W. Graham Paper Co., stationery and supplies, and Skerritt & Donnelly, boots and shoes. Both are total losses. Graham carried a stack worth \$60,000, about 70 per cent covered by insurance. The firm of Skerritt & Donnelly had a stock of \$25,000, of which \$20,000 was covered by insurance.

In the offices above this were big losses on law libraries and fixtures, besides a probably still larger loss on furniture and household goods.

Mrs. H. H. G. Davies, of Nebraska City, Neb., fell or jumped from a fifth-story window to the cement pavement. She died at the Sacred Heart hospital.

A thrilling rescue was that of Robert Masson, his wife and their two-year-old son, from the fifth floor on the Post street side. From a fire escape on the fourth floor, seven feet to one side from their window, firemen threw a rope which Masson made fast to his bed and came down hand over hand carrying his boy. Mrs. Masson following. As she hung suspended far above the ground, the crowd watched with breathless interest. When rescued a shout of joy went up.

SUED BY HER ATTORNEY.

Another Episode in the Eventful Life of Minnie Wallace Walkup Ketcham.

CHICAGO, Jan. 26.—Mrs. Minnie Wallace Walkup Ketcham, widow of the late well-known clubman John B. Ketcham, has been sued by her former attorney D. C. Hansen for \$20,000 which he alleges is due him for services. Hansen asserts he attended to all the legal matters arising from the death of Mr. Ketcham, drew up the will in dispute at the present time, and made all preparations for the hearing of the contest in behalf of Mrs. Ketcham.

IT BLEW GREAT GUNS.

Tuesday's Gale a Veritable Hurricane of Widespread Dimensions and Destructive Energy—Some of the Casualties Chronicled, Including Two Fatalities St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 26.—At least two lives have been lost, a number of persons injured and great damage done to property as the result of the violent storm that swept over this city Tuesday morning.

August Weymeyer was blown from the roof of the Shields school, where he was at work, and died a few minutes after being received at the city hospital.

Thomas Joseph Peterson, aged four years, was blown from a third-story porch and instantly killed.

Mrs. Sarah L. Orr was buried under a fence which was blown over and her spine so badly injured that she may die.

Mrs. W. B. Doddridge was blown under an express wagon, and received serious injuries about the head and body.

William Leonard was struck by a falling sign and received a severe scalp wound.

Mary Wilson, aged 62, was struck by a falling sign and her hip dislocated.

The wind attained a velocity of 63 miles an hour, and created a veritable panic among the occupants of exposed buildings, several of which were unroofed.

Much damage is said to have been done in the suburbs.

Following reports have been received from other points of ravages by the storm:

At El Reno, Okla., the wind was strong enough to shake houses, topple over chimneys and break many panes of glass. The residence of Wm. Phelps, a farmer, two miles east of El Reno, was demolished. The family escaped with slight injuries. A few miles distant another house was blown down and the debris caught fire and was consumed. No one was injured.

At Guthrie, Okla., a hailstorm prevailed and hundreds of panes of glass were broken. Many people believed a tornado was upon them and fled to their storm cellars. Up to seven o'clock yesterday morning communication with the whole country was good. Then the wires, burdened with several times their weight of ice and snow, tautened by the cold and lashed by the wind, began to snap under the unusual tension.

By nine o'clock nearly every circuit line along the Santa Fe and Union Pacific railroads for miles out was broken. Two hours later communication with almost the entire west was cut off. At noon the condition had become more aggravated. Out of nearly a dozen wires to St. Louis and the same number to Chicago, only one was working between each of these cities.

It was impossible, however, to obtain any news from the central west, the southwest or the northwest.

Many trains left the Union station late, after waiting in vain for orders and proceeded slowly and cautiously.

In Kansas City the damage was confined to broken telephone poles, snapped telephone wires and more or less delay to street railway traffic.

THE SPOKANE FIRE.

Several Lives Lost and the Great Eastern Block in Ruins.

SPOKANE, Wash., Jan. 26.—A fire, in which the loss will run up to \$400,000 worth of property and, at the very least, five lives were lost, broke out Monday night. The Great Eastern block at the corner of Post street and Riverside avenue, six stories in height and constructed of brick, caught fire about 11:45 p. m., and in three hours was totally demolished.

All of the upper two floors and part of the third floor were used for lodging purposes, and at least 150 people were asleep in the building when the fire started. While the most of them escaped with only their clothes, it is thought a number perished. What makes the horror greater is that no one knows who is still imprisoned. As the people were removed from the burning structure or escaped themselves, they sought places of safety. The last out of the upper floors report from lying in the hall and women shrieking in the flames.

The origin of the fire is supposed to have been in the engine room. Mrs. Stark Oliver, wife of Dr. Stark Oliver, who lived on the second floor, says she heard an explosion shortly before the flames appeared. The boiler may have exploded and caused the fire to start. There is another theory, and that is the chemicals in the basement stored there for the photographic supply of John W. Graham & Co. exploded.

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THE GREAT STORM.

It Prevailed From the Rockies to the Atlantic, and From the Canadian Border to the Gulf—Severe in Illinois—Heavy Snows in the Northern Portion, Wind and Rain in the Southern Part.

From the Rockies to the Atlantic, the Canadian border down to the gulf, violent storms prevailed all of Tuesday, the 25th.

The storm in southern and central Illinois was accompanied with brilliant electrical display and high winds, almost cyclonic in force. Many buildings were damaged. The rain was followed by heavy hail-storm, the chunks of ice cutting into the flesh of men and animals.

In northern Illinois, blinding snow-storm was reported, in places preceded by rain and hail. Railways were blocked, business suspended.

Following synopsis of dispatches sent out from various sections of Illinois will give some idea of the storm's effects:

ROCKFORD—A blizzard which exceeded in intensity that of last Saturday raged here all day and to-night. Rockford is buried under several feet of snow and business is paralyzed. Not an electric car has turned a wheel since noon. Railroad trains are stalled in drifts and tied up on all lines leading out of this city. The passenger on the Central from Chicago, due here at noon, is off the track at Perryville, and another train is stuck in a drift ahead of it. Other roads are having the same experience, and a number of snow-plows, with big gangs of shovelers, were sent out of Rockford to-night. Streets and walks are banked high with drifts and are impassable. Telephone service is badly crippled.

BLOOMINGTON—A storm of thunder and lightning and rain swept over this region just before daybreak. The spectacle was a weird one. The snow lay four inches deep on the ground and reflected the lightning with binding intensity. The rain fell in torrents on the icy snow, partially freezing as it fell, until everything glistened like a mirror. The rain was followed by hail. The electric storm lasted an hour. There were light showers throughout the day. The rain and the high temperature loosened the masses of snow on the roofs and window ledges of the business buildings, and there was a succession of more or less dangerous avalanches on the streets.

MAQUETON—A terrific wind, rain, hail and electrical storm struck this section of southern Illinois about three o'clock this morning, and raged for several hours. After the storm the wind changed from the southeast to the southwest, and has blown at a furious rate all day. The gale became so strong that many tin roofs and chimney tops were lifted and blown away, and telephone and telegraph lines were prostrated throughout this district.

PEORIA—A severe snow storm raged in the vicinity of Peoria to-day. All of the incoming trains are late and are pulled by double-headers. At Bureau the snow drifted so that it was difficult for the trains to get out. At Galva the Rock Island & Peoria trains were snowed in and extra engines from here went to their aid. All freight trains have been held here. To-day's snow was accompanied by rain and sleet in this district, and the river and neighboring creeks are very high.

OFFALON—A terrific wind, rain and hail storm struck this place early this morning. The wind blew almost a hurricane from the west, and rain fell in torrents, accompanied by heavy hail. The violence of the storm, together with an alarming electrical display, unusual at this season, inspired general fear of a tornado. The wind continued a gale from the west to-day, and Wachter's hall, one of the principal buildings, has been unroofed.

GALESBURG—Another big snow-storm set in this morning, and is still in progress. The wind rose at 10 o'clock, and since then the storm has assumed the proportions of a blizzard. Street cars were abandoned early in the day. The reports at the Burlington & Quincy offices show that the storm is general throughout this part of the state. Snow plows were run out of the shops and sent in every direction to keep the track clear. The snow now is a foot deep on the level and is drifting badly. Railroad trains are being made up light.

ALTON—Between 3 and 4 o'clock this morning a double storm struck this city. The proximity of two storms gave an ominous outlook, but nothing serious resulted. The rain fell in torrents, following which came a heavy downpour of hail. The vivid lightning was altogether unusual for January. During Tuesday the wind blew a gale, loosening fences, signs and small out-buildings.

MOUNT VERNON—A terrific storm of rain, hail and wind, accompanied by thunder and lightning, passed over this city at five o'clock this morning, and for a few minutes it looked as though the cyclone of ten years ago would be duplicated. The storm, however, abated, with no more serious damage than the partial unroofing of some buildings, the destruction of awnings and uprooting of shade trees.

PRINCETON—A heavy snow storm prevailed here to-day with a strong north wind, which drifted the snow badly. The country roads in many places are impassable.

OLNEY—A severe wind storm raged here from noon until 6 p. m. to-day. Public schools were closed in consequence. The barometer at noon went down to 29.15, the lowest point reached here since records have been kept. No rain fell.

HILLSBORO—Early this morning a hail storm, accompanied by constant flashes of lightning and torrents of rain, swept over Montgomery county. The streams near here are all swollen, while the wind has blown a gale.

KINMURDY—A northwest blizzard prevailed in this section. The mercury fell rapidly.

Many People Cannot Drink

coffee at night. It spoils their sleep. You can drink Grain-O when you please and sleep like a top. For Grain-O does not stimulate; it nourishes, cheers and feeds. Yet it looks and tastes like the best coffee. For nervous persons, young people and children Grain-O is the perfect drink. Made from pure grains. Get a package from your grocer to-day. Try it in place of coffee. 15 and 25c.

Up-to-Date Sociology.

Son—Papa, what is meant by the classes? Sprockets—Why, they're professionals and A and B amateurs—the B's really aren't amateurs at all.

"Well, what are the masses?" "Oh, they're the folks who pay gate money to see the races, I s'pose."—N. Y. Journal.

In cold weather

We need heat.

The blood must be

Warm, rich and pure.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Keeps the blood

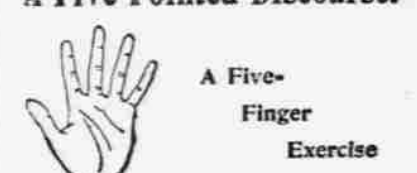
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A. N. K.—B 1898

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